

# JOHN ADAMS

## 1797 - 1801



**John Adams** was born in 1735 in what is now Quincy, Massachusetts, son of a farmer. He became a lawyer after graduating from Harvard. He married Abigail Smith; they had two daughters and three sons, one of whom, John Quincy Adams, became the sixth president of the United States. John Adams died on July 4, 1826, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

**Abigail Smith Adams** was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts in 1744. She is remembered as one of the most influential of the first ladies in U. S. history, and many volumes of her letters have been published. She is the first First Lady to be both wife and mother of a United States president. Abigail died in 1818.



After graduation from Harvard, **President John Adams** practiced law in Massachusetts, gaining prominence for his opposition to unjust taxation by the Crown. He became an influential member of the Continental Congress and supported George Washington, helping to draft the Declaration of Independence and had a leading part in the debate which led to its adoption. After the Revolutionary War he, along with John Jay and Benjamin Franklin, negotiated the treaty of peace with Great Britain, and was the country's first minister to the Court of St James in 1785. He served as George Washington's vice-president for Washington's entire eight-year administration. Adams' presidency was a stormy one due to differences between the two political parties, the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans. John Adams was a leader of the Federalists. Probably because of the factional strife, he was not elected to a second term. He died in 1826 at the age of 91.

Abigail was the chief figure in the social life of her husband's administration, and her correspondence shows that she took an active interest in the government. When John Adams was away from their home, she took responsibility for running the farm with great success.

### Arizona Timeline

1700's and early 1800's -

The northwest area of Arizona is populated by native American people: Mohave, Hualapai and Paiute Indians. Spanish Troops campaign against the Apache Indians in lands that belong to Spain as part of northern Mexico. Mining, Ranching, and Missionary activity continues to increase in the area that will some day be Arizona.